

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 AGR-05 USIA-06 AID-05 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07

EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 L-03 FRB-03

OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00

OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 CIEP-01 CEA-01 /110 W

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FODAG

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, UNCTAD

SUBJ: UNCTAD COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS: U.S. VIEWS ON ROLE OF
UNCTAD SECRETARIAT

REF: (A) STATE 208183, (B) ROME 13875, (C) ROME 9803.

1. U.S. REPRESENTATIVE MET WITH ANTHONY LEEKS, ACTING
DIRECTOR OF FAO COMMODITY AND TRADE DIVISION, ON AUGUST 30 TO
DISCUSS ORGANIZATION OF UNCTAD COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS AND TO
GIVE TO HIM AN AIDE MEMOIRE OUTLINING POINTS MADE IN DEPTTEL.

2. LEEKS, JUST BACK FROM VACATION, REITERATED KNOWN FAO POSITION
OF FOLLOWUP OF UNCTAD COMMODITY RESOLUTION. THIS RESOLUTION IS
BINDING ON UNCTAD. FAO IS READY TO ASSIST UNCTAD IN CONSULTATIONS
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CONCERNING COMMODITIES IT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR, BUT IS NOT GOING TO

TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE UNLESS UNCTAD AND MEMBER STATES CLEARLY INDICATE DESIRE FOR SUCH A FAO ROLE. IN INTERIM FAO WILL CONTINUE WITH ITS WORK IN COMMODITY FIELD AS IT HAS IN PAST.

3. LEEKS DID EXPRESS DOUBT THAT UNCTAD SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS WOULD BE CHANGED AT THIS POINT. HE ALSO WONDERED WHETHER U.S. WISHED FAO TO DELAY ITS SCHEDULING OF IG GROUPS ON JUTE AND HARD FIBERS. LEEKS WENT ON TO SAY THAT FAO AND UNCTAD SECRETARIATS WERE COOPERATING WELL ON PREPARATION OF DOCUMENTS FOR JUTE MEETING AND UNCTAD HAD LEFT FULL TASK TO FAO FOR HARD FIBERS. AS TO FURTHER COOPERATION AND AN INCREASED ROLE FOR FAO, LEEKS BELIEVES BALL IS IN UNCATD SECRETARIEAT COURT AND WILL BE DECIDED BY UNCTAD ON BASIS OF CONSULTATIONS WITH MEMBER STATES WHICH ARE GOING ON NOW.

4. LEEKS QUESTIONED EFFECTIVENESS OF LIMITING PARTICIPATION IN COMMODITY CONSULTATIONS TO PRODUCERS AND COMSUMERS. ALMOST EVERYBODY IS A PRODUCER OR CONSUMER. IF WE EMPHASIZE "DIRECT INTEREST" THEN EACH COUNTRY MAY DECIDE FOR ITSELF ITS "DIRECT INTEREST". IN FACT, THIS IS THE SITUATION IN THE FAO'S INTERGOVERNMENTAL GROUPS WHICH ARE TECHNICALLY OPEN TO ALL FAO MEMBERS BUT IN PRACTICE ONLY THE MOST INTERESTED COUNTRIES HAVE OPTED FOR MEMBERSHIP AND, IMPORTANTLY, USUALLY ONLY THOSE COUNTRIES WITH A MAJOR ECONOMIC INTEREST SEND EXPERTS FROM CAPITALS TO SUCH MEETINGS.

5. LEEKS NOTED THAT USG POSITION WAS UNDERSTOOD BY FAO BASED ON TALKS DURING FAO COUNCIL AND THAT DG, SAOUMA, HAD SENT TO COREA TEST OF U.S. STATEMENT MADE BY DAVID L. HUME, ADMINISTRATOR, FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE ON SUBJECT AT FAO COUNCIL SESSION ON JULY 12, 1976. LEEKS WILL INFORM THE RESPONSIBLE FAO OFFICIALS OF OUR POSITION, BUT RECOMMENDED WE ALSO SEND A COPY OF OUR AIDE MEMOIRE TO SAOUMA WHICH WE ARE DOING BY LETTER DATED AUGUST 31, 1976. WE WILL ALSO FOLLOW-UP WITH FAO JUTE AND HARD FIBERS EXPERTS.

6. FOR THE RECORD THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE U.S. STATEMENT ON UNCTAD COMMODITIES CONSULTATIONS AT THE FAO COUNCIL: QUOTE. WE SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE THREE FURTHER POINTS REGARDING MEETINGS. UNCTAD IV PROPOSED A NUMBER OF PREPARATORY MEETINGS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REGARDING COMMODITIES. FOR THESE, WE BELIEVE EXISTING GROUPS AND FACILITIES SHOULD BE UTILIZED WHEREVER PRACTICABLE. THE FOLLIWING FALL IN FAO'S AREA OF COMPETENCE: TEA, BANANAS, JUTE, HARD FIBERS, MEAT, OILSEEDS, TROPICAL TIMBER, AND PHOSPHATES. WE BELIEVE THAT TO THE EXTENT PREPARTATORY MEETINGS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY IN THESE COMMODITY AREAS, FAO SHOULD TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ORGANIZING THEM. UNQUOTE AND THE SENTENCE IN THE FINAL 69TH FAO COUNCIL REPORT ON THE SUBJECT, QUOTE IT ALSO NOTED

THAT THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL WAS CONSULTING THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF
UNCTAD SO AS TO ENSURE THAT FAO COOPERATED, AS APPROPRIATE, IN
THE FOLLOW-UP OF UNCTAD IV. UNQUOTE. BEAUDRY

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